

householder shall give notice of every birth and death happening in his house; the eldest person next of kin shall give such notice of the death of his kindred; the keeper of a workhouse, house of correction, prison, hospital, reformatory, almshouse or other institution, and the master or other commanding officer of a ship or vessel shall give notice of every birth or death happening among the people under his charge.

Notice of birth or death to be given.

6 J. The records of births and deaths shall be preserved by the registrar, and shall be open to inspection by all persons for proper purposes, by all city, town or county officials, by the State Registrar or his accredited representative; provided, that such examination shall be made in such a way that the contents of the registers shall not be subjected to risk of damage or alteration, and the prompt registry of the births and deaths received by the registrar shall not be interrupted. The registrar shall promptly inquire into the facts when any omissions or discrepancies in the personal or statistical facts are called to his attention, shall truly ascertain such missing facts of record, and make a certified statement thereof to the State Registrar, and enter the correction in red ink over his official signature upon his record. The contents of the register of a copy thereof, duly certified by the registrar, shall be *prima facie* evidence in all courts, and for all purposes of the facts relative to any birth or death therein recorded, and shall be verified, in case of dispute, by a certified copy of the original certificate of birth or death from the State Registrar.

Records of births and deaths preserved.

6 K. The local registrars shall receive for performing the services required by this Act the following fees: For a permit to disinter a human body, except when required for the purposes of legal investigations, twenty-five cents, to be paid by the person to whom such permit issued; for a copy of the record of a birth or death, twenty-five cents, together with payment for time of search, if over half an hour, at the rate of fifty cents an hour, to be paid by the person to whom such copy is furnished. The State Registrar shall certify to each local registrar quarterly, or oftener, if it shall be considered expedient, the number of properly executed certificates of births and deaths received from such local registrar for the year or portion of year included; provided, that cities having a population of ten thousand inhabitants or over, shall have power to fix the compensation of local registrars for the duties required by this Act.

Fees received.

6 L. The State Registrar shall receive the certificates returned under this Act, permanently bind and preserve them, make